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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
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TO: Chief of

DATE: 27 October 1947

FROM: Chief, Foreign Branch T

SUBJECT: GENERAL Foreign Intelligence  
Specific: Ustasha Colony in Argentina

- (1) In June of this year, a dissemination sent out by the Yugoslav desk on General Franc Biro, Minister to Argentina, contained the following statement: "The appointment of General Biro as Minister to Argentina is interpreted to mean the initiation of a policy of the Yugoslav regime to line up the various Ustasha groups in support of the Tito government, and the prosecution of the communist activity previously initiated by General Biro in South America. This activity is reported to be centered in Buenos Aires." It is believed by those familiar with Yugoslav affairs that indications recently received all tend to confirm the truth of this statement. Many former Ustashi are known to be working in various places all over the world for the communist-dominated Yugoslav government—perhaps in an attempt to rectify their former misdeeds, or perhaps because their thinking has turned in the direction of Communism. It will be recalled that the Ustashi are those Croatians who, under Ante Pavelic, set up an independent Croatian state and collaborated with the Germans; that many of them are considered war criminals by the Soviet Government and are being hunted. Nevertheless, many others appear to be working for the Soviet agents now, and it is said that their actions and their loyalties cannot be predicted. The Yugoslav desk considers that the whereabouts and activities of former Ustashi are important.

N.B. Throughout this report, the terms "Ustasha", "pro-Pavelic", and "Independent Croatian State" are used more or less synonymously. The word "Ustasha" is used collectively, when referring to the group or organization, and also to denote a single individual belonging to the group. "Ustashi" is used to refer to several individuals of the organization.

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- (a) Ustasha emigration to Argentina has been particularly intense. In a document received from London in April of 1947, it was stated that the main objectives of Ustasha policy are: "(1) Education of the Ustase (sic) Youth Movement abroad; (2) safeguarding of Ustase (sic) leaders abroad for future action in Yugoslavia, no matter how long the waiting period; and (3) support to the Ustase (sic) emigration to the Americas." General Ilko ~~Stjepanovic~~ <sup>Stjepanovic</sup> was the Ustasha Air Force Commander up until 1944, and Antonio ~~Isidoro~~ <sup>Isidoro</sup>, formerhead President of Yugoslavia Libre, as you reported in TAB-310, is a former Ustasha publicly known as a pro-Fascist Yugoslav. (We have received, however, your TAB-400 stating that Isidoro has been removed from leadership along with other non-dynastic Croatists.)

Several reports from Italy have confirmed the TAB and Airtels dispatches describing the organization which exists in Rome and Buenos Aires to assist the Ustashi in their emigration to Argentina. In Rome, this organization is headed by Krunoslav Vrananovic, and in Buenos Aires, it is represented by Jorge Butera, whom you described briefly in TAB-272. Padre Blas Stefanie (see SA-236) apparently aids the work by sheltering refugees upon their arrival in Buenos Aires. One San Vendelino was also reported to be a member of the group in Italy, and to be arranging to go to Argentina, but nothing has been heard of him since. The possible tie-up of the Vatican with this organization is interesting.

- (4) Since it is believed that it would be worthwhile to have complete files on the Ustasha system in Argentina in case it should turn out to be of vital intelligence interest, we have made an intensive search of records here to obtain more background information on these individuals, and to attempt to clarify the identity of those who arrived in Buenos Aires under assumed names or whose identity was questionable. We have been successful in finding information on the prior activities of some and in confirming the identity of others. Concerning the majority, however, we are still unable to obtain proof of their presence in Buenos Aires. We shall list these individuals later on in this letter, and ask you to ascertain for us, if possible, whether or not they have ever reached Buenos Aires.
- (5) It is interesting to note that after working out the various cards and identities (if all these people actually are, as has been reported, in Buenos Aires) it appears that the group of Ustashi in Argentina includes the former Minister of Education; the former Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce; the former Minister of the Interior; the former Minister of Economy and Finance; the former Chief of Favalic's Military Cabinet; the former Secretary of State; the former Chief of the Ustasha Police; two of Favalic's former Generals, and various other people who have held important positions in the Ustasha organization. In the following paragraphs, we shall list all the Ustashi believed to be in Argentina in two classifications--a) giving data on their identity and their arrival in Argentina; and b) giving data on their background and prior activities.

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